

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 ENCOURAGING BERNALILLO COUNTY TO INITIATE A TRANSITIONAL  
3 HOUSING PROGRAM FOR WOMEN RECOVERING FROM SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND  
4 REQUESTING STATE AGENCIES TO BECOME PARTNERS IN THE PROJECT  
5 WITH THE COUNTY.

6  
7 WHEREAS, providing the clients of substance abuse  
8 treatment programs with gender-specific treatments has  
9 resulted in longer and more successful treatments; and

10 WHEREAS, the tendency of women to leave treatment  
11 earlier than men has been attributed to the inability of  
12 treatment programs to meet their complex medical, social and  
13 emotional needs; and

14 WHEREAS, effective substance abuse treatment for women  
15 helps halt a downward spiral that, if left unchecked, may  
16 result in increased criminal activity; and

17 WHEREAS, such programs are fundamental to public safety,  
18 preventing crime and protecting potential victims of crime;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, substance abuse treatment programs for women  
21 with children that address women's unique needs, including  
22 their relationships with their partners, families and  
23 children and any history of physical and sexual abuse, are  
24 more effective than traditional programs and have the  
25 additional benefit of assisting the children of those women;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, there is no gender-specific long-term  
3 transitional housing program for women and their children  
4 that serves the state of New Mexico; and

5 WHEREAS, the unique substance abuse treatment needs of  
6 women include child care services, women-only treatment and  
7 prenatal care; and

8 WHEREAS, limited access to child care services is one of  
9 the most frequently cited barriers to treatment of women  
10 seeking treatment, and programs that allow women to bring  
11 their children into residential treatment experience greater  
12 lengths of stay; and

13 WHEREAS, the children of addicted parents have the  
14 highest risk of abusing alcohol and drugs due to both genetic  
15 and environmental factors; and

16 WHEREAS, a strong correlation has been documented  
17 between parental addiction and child abuse and neglect; and

18 WHEREAS, the children of addicted parents are at higher  
19 risk for being abandoned at birth, being placed in foster  
20 care, running away from home and becoming homeless; and

21 WHEREAS, the children of addicted parents experience  
22 physical and mental health problems at a greater rate than  
23 children of non-addicted parents;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Bernalillo county be encouraged to

1 develop a transitional housing and substance abuse treatment  
2 program for women with children that will address their  
3 unique needs and create a positive living environment during  
4 the rehabilitation process; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the children, youth and  
6 families department, the human services department and the  
7 department of health consider joining Bernalillo county in  
8 the identification of sources for funding for and the  
9 development and ultimate implementation of such a program;  
10 and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
12 transmitted to the county manager of Bernalillo county and to  
13 the secretaries of children, youth and families; human  
14 services; and health. \_\_\_\_\_

15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25